

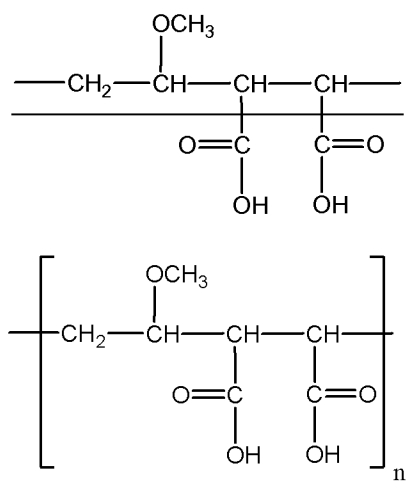
Dexamethasone₂

4. (Currently amended) The iontophoretic delivery device according to claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~a counter electrode assembly,~~ wherein the ~~counter~~ second electrode assembly is configured for completing an electrical circuit between the first active electrode assembly and an energy source; and

an energy source for generating an electrical potential difference.

5. (Currently amended) The iontophoretic device according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric gel matrix ~~polymer is~~ comprises any polymer having the following structure[[:]]:



~~wherein n is an integer greater than or equal to 2 an effective amount of said polymer maintains the pH above 4.0 and adjust the pH between approximately 4.1 to approximately 4.9 for effectively delivering the medicament to treat the affected area of the living body's subject.~~

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The iontophoretic device according to claim 1, wherein the viscosity enhancer is hydroxy ethyl cellulose.

8. (Currently amended) The iontophoretic device according to claim 1, wherein the rehydrating agent is polysorbate 20 TWEEN®20.

9. (Original) The iontophoretic device according to claim 1, wherein the active electrode assembly includes an open-faced or high current density electrode.

10. (Currently amended) A method for treating an affected area of a living subject's body, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

associating a medicament with a matrix in an iontophoretic delivery device;

providing an effective amount of pH buffering agents to the matrix, wherein the buffering agents maintain the pH of the matrix from approximately 4.1 to approximately 4.9 ~~include an amino acid and a polymer having pendant carboxylic acid moieties;~~

providing a viscosity enhancer to the matrix;

adding a rehydrating ~~rehydration~~ agent to the matrix ~~to facilitate homogeneous hydration within the matrix;~~

associating an active electrode assembly with the matrix, wherein the active electrode assembly includes a first electrode in electrical communication with medicament ions in the polymeric gel matrix;

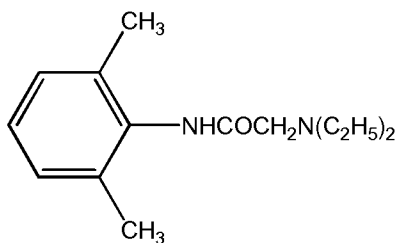
providing a second electrode that is in direct electrical communication with the living subject's body;

positioning at least a portion of the iontophoretic device on the affected area of a living subject; and

iontophoretically delivering the medicament to the affected area of the living subject to minimize skin inflammation.

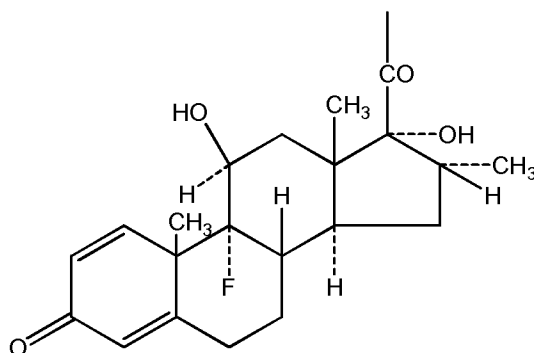
11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the medicament ~~from the step of delivering a medicament~~ is selected from the group consisting of the following chemical structures:



Lidocaine

and,



Dexamethasone,

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the ~~step of delivering a medicament to the living subject includes the step of providing~~ pH buffering agents comprise one or more and any one of amino acids wherein both work in concert to maintain pH above pH 4.0 and assure minimal deviations from a pH of about pH 4.5.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the rehydrating agent ~~further~~ comprises sodium polyacrylate ~~WATERLOCK® A220~~.

16. (Currently amended) The iontophoretic device according to claim 1, wherein the pH is maintained at about 4.5.

17. (New) An iontophoretic device for transdermally delivering a medicament to an affected area of a living subject's body, wherein the device comprises:

- a buffered polymeric gel matrix positionable adjacent to a patient's skin;
- a viscosity enhancer associated with the polymeric gel matrix;
- a rehydrating agent associated with the polymeric gel matrix;
- a medicament included in the polymeric gel matrix; and
- an electrode assembly associated with the polymeric gel matrix, wherein the electrode assembly includes a first electrode adapted to receive the medicament from the polymeric gel matrix and deliver the medicament to the patient's skin.

18. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein the electrode assembly includes a second electrode positioned remotely from the first electrode.